

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

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DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 /107 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2449

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2999

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO POLO AORG IS PFOR

SUBJ: ILO: PLO ISSUE

REF: A. GENEVA 2980; B. GENEVA 1586; C. CB 195/16/33
REPORT OF GB STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, PERSONS AND QUACKENBUSH

1. SUMMARY. ILO/DG BLANCHARD BELIEVES THAT UNTIL ARAB INTENTIONS ARE CLEARER IT IS NOT REALISTIC TO PREDICT HOW THE ILO CONFERENCE MIGHT ACT ON THE PLO REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS. HOWEVER HE COMMENTED ON THE TACTICS INVOLVED IN THE EXPECTED SCENARIO. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL, I ASKED BLANCHARD HOW HE THOUGHT THE PLO ISSUE WOULD COME OUT AT THE JUNE SESSION OF THE ILO CONFERENCE. HE SAID ARAB INTENTIONS WERE THE MAIN FACTOR AND UNTIL THEY BECAME CLEARER, NO REALISTIC ASSESSMENT COULD BE MADE. HE LEAVES MAY 6 FOR MOROCCO AND WILL SOUND OUT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BODY (EL KHATTABI) AT THAT TIME.

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3. THE EXPECTED SCENARIO: BLANCHARD NOTED THAT THE

GOVERNING BODY HAD ASKED THE CONFERENCE TO SET UP A STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE AMENDMENTS LAID OUT IN REF C, AND THIS IS WHAT HE EXPECTS WILL HAPPEN. THE CONFERENCE SO COMMITTEE IS NOT BOUND BY THE GB REPORT, IT COULD SET IT ASIDE AND START OVER, BUT BLANCHARD HOPED THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN. IF THE COMMITTEE REACHED A BROAD CONSENSUS, A WIDE OPEN DEBATE IN THE CONFERENCE MIGHT BE AVOIDED; THE CONFERENCE MIGHT EVEN ACCEPT THE SO COMMITTEE REPORT BY CONSENSUS. ASSUMING THE CONFERENCE ACTED POSITIVELY THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE (AND POSSIBLY REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENTS) WOULD THEN BE INVITED INTO THE PLENARY AND WOULD PROBABLY BE GIVEN THE FLOOR. IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT A NUMBER OF CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES WOULD ALSO BE MADE BY CONFERENCE DELEGATES.

4. TACTICS: BLANCHARD SAID HE HOPED THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE WOULD BE BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE AND DOMINATED BY COOL AND RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE (SEE PARA 2 REF B). HE HOPED THE SO COMMITTEE WILL CONFINE ITSELF TO THE TECHNICAL PROBLEM OF DRAFTING. IF THE SO COMMITTEE REACHED CONSENSUS FAIRLY SOON AND WITH A MINIMUM OF WRANGLING, THE CONFERENCE MIGHT ACCEPT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS WITHOUT REOPENING AND DEBATING ALL THE FINE POINTS.

5. COMMENT: I AGREE WITH BLANCHARD THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO GUESS THE SUBSTANCE OF ANY SOLUTION THE CONFERENCE MAY DEVISE. HOWEVER AT THIS TIME EVEN THE CALMEST AND MOST QUIET SCENARIO INCLUDES A PUBLICLY VISIBLE ENTRY OF THE PLO INTO THE ILO.
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